

Mount Stuart News

December 2013

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

We wish you a safe and happy Christmas season and a special welcome to all new residents. We hope you enjoy your time here.



I wish all Mount Stuart residents a happy and safe Christmas/ New Year period as you enjoy time with family and friends. I am available anytime by phone

or email should there be government issues with which I can assist.

Rob Valentine MLC

Independent Member for Hobart

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BUSHFIRE READY

PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE



At a recent forum Tasmania Fire Service, Hobart City Council, UTas and West Hobart Environment Network presented residents of Mount Nelson, South Hobart, West Hobart, Mount Stuart and Lenah Valley with very useful information on fire management and preparing neighbourhoods.

When talking about the latest research on bushfires, Professor David Bowman, Professor of Environment Change Biology at UTas, described the whole of Hobart, not just the mountain suburbs, as being at risk in bushfire ember attack.



The Fire Service stresses that in times of bushfire, the most important measure is to have a plan either to stay and defend or to leave, and to be ready to implement that plan in plenty of

time. Have the car packed with the things that you want to save if you have to leave. A written plan will help you think through the actions logically, and give you something to refer to when a bushfire breaks out nearby. A wealth of useful advice is available on the TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au Publications to assist you in preparing your plan include:



- Bushfire Survival Plan booklet
- Leave Early Checklist
- Stay and Defend Checklist
- Emergency Kits



Fern Tree residents, in collaboration with Tas Fire Service, have established groups as part of the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods Program. These local community groups focus on discussing and implementing bushfire prevention, preparedness and response regimes and provide a model for sustained community bushfire preparedness. People need to be aware of their neighbours and to look out for everyone, especially those living alone, or with disabilities.



The convenor of the meeting, Margaret Steadman is convening follow-up meetings to work on establishing similar Bushfire Ready groups in our suburbs.

Christmas Trees

Lenah Valley Volunteer Fire Brigade will be selling Christmas Trees on Sat 7th, Sun 8th, Sat 14th and Sun 15th December from 9am to 4.30pm and Tues 10th and Tues 17th from 5pm to 7pm at the station in Kalang Avenue, Lenah Valley (next to the Roy Fagan Centre). Funds raised go towards buying equipment for the brigade.





MOUNT STUART SCOUT NEWS

As another year wraps up, Mount Stuart can celebrate another year of great Scouting. And we're also celebrating reaching the 100 mark! At the time of writing the group has 77 young people, 13 leaders, three adult supporters, and seven committee members on the books.



The Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers have all had busy years with highlights including camps, walks, creative adventures, and group activities. Many have achieved awards, including the Promise Challenge and Grey Wolf. One of our leaders, Chris Ballard, achieved the highest award you can achieve as a Youth in Scouting, the Baden-Powell Award. Some of our leaders were also awarded for their good service. These awards represent the many hours of work and dedication that all our members put in. It is pleasing to have a strong group of young people and adults who enjoy the adventures of Scouting and also enjoy learning and growing together and making a contribution to the community.

Mount Stuart Scout Group has recently established a relationship with the New Town Rivulet Catchment Care Group Inc. and we hope to have an ongoing connection and support the massive job they have of caring for the 9.5km Rivulet Catchment from 'Lost World' on Mt Wellington to the River Derwent. We have already had two clean-ups with Scouts, Cubs, leaders and parents volunteering a couple of hours of their time to spread mulch along the Rivulet at Creek Road. This mulch will help remediate the soil by putting nutrients back in and stopping the growth of weeds, to allow for later plantings of natives. Those involved have had a great time.



The group would like to thank the Mount Stuart Community Service Association for its support throughout this and previous years. We continue to enjoy using the Memorial

Hall as our home base, as the group has done from our very beginnings over 50 years ago. We are also thankful for the support from the community and our parents. To see more of what is going on in Scouts, go to www.mtstuartscouts.org



Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year... We look forward to more Scouting in 2014!

HARD WORK REWARDED

Congratulations to Weerona Ave resident Dr Kerry Howells and her associate Ruth Radford, the Partnerships in Teaching Excellence team, on winning the Award for Programs that Enhance Learning. Their work prepares student teachers for assignment to tougher schools where the students have more difficulties. The awards are given by the Office of Teaching and Learning. Very valuable work!



WEBSITE UPDATES

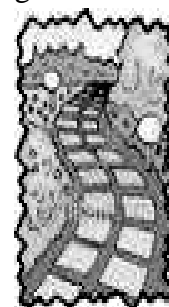
The list of hall bookings has not been published in this edition. In the New Year, we plan to publish this regularly on our website: www.mountstuarttas.org.au This means that you always have up to date information.

MORE ABOUT THOSE BACK TRACKS AND WALKWAYS

Thank you to those who provided feedback about the article and map in the last newsletter. We hear that many others were pleased to see it. Please email your thoughts – including the pros and cons of identifying the walkways with signs.

Suggestions for a distinctive collective name have included:

- Footways*
- Pathways*
- Thistle ways*
- This-a-ways*
- Backtracks*
- Walkways*
- By-ways*
- Escape-ways*



One respondent tells us of a place in Yorkshire where they were called "snickets". What do you think?

David Reeve: dareeve@iinet.net.au

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TRAFFIC

The HCC has local advisory traffic committees where Council officers, aldermen and community representatives meet, usually twice a year, and discuss traffic issues. If you are interested in being part of this, even occasionally, contact HCC's Community Consultation Officer on 6238 2985 or contact the Progress Association. We know that traffic issues are a major concern for most residents.



MOUNT STUART PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

– PLANNING AND DREAMING

Our August General Meeting was advertised as an occasion for brainstorming and future planning. Twelve Mount Stuart residents attended, and offered a range of ideas. Since then, the Committee has talked more about many of them.



Some of our plans and dreams for 2014 and beyond are listed below. But we want this to be *your* association, so please give us your responses to the ideas.

A change of name

'Progress Association' seems rather outdated. At present we are thinking of a change to 'Community Association', but let us know if you think you have a better idea! What about 'association'? Should that word change too?

Changes to our constitution would need to be foreshadowed at our AGM early next year, (probably 27th March) and perhaps also a change of name for the body that runs the

hall, e.g. from 'Mount Stuart Community Service Association' to 'Mount Stuart Hall Association'.

Clarifying our purpose

We don't anticipate a major change here, but it is a chance to state what we are here for in a clear and current way.

Community/Open Day

An occasion – 22nd or 29th March – for groups and individuals in Mount Stuart, and tenants of the Hall, to participate in displays, activities and information sessions of interest to our community.

Regular Community Forums

We are still developing this idea, but wonder about two or three occasions a year when we focus on topics relevant to our community.



Council Forums

Mount Stuart will also be the location for one of two Community Forums planned by the City Council to inform and seek feedback on Council plans and activities. More details on this early in 2014.

Seniors Activities

We'd like to organise one or two activities for Seniors Week in early October next year.



An updated and improved website

A small group is working on this. We'd like it to be as informative and useful as possible for residents and for prospective Hall users.

Mount Stuart in the Media

One idea is for a Media Officer to ensure that news and notices are brought to the attention of the wider community.

Supporting other Mount Stuart groups

We want to support and work closely with the Mount Stuart Primary School (the Principal joined us for our November committee meeting), the Mount Stuart Growers and others.

A safe and happy Christmas season and thank you for all your support in 2013.

Kindest regards

Alderman Eva Ruzicka and family

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The Art Society of Tasmania

What's On

Dec: Election – to 12 January 2014

New members show off their talents

7th and 8th Dec: Ceramics sale

Choose something for Xmas!

Jan: Workshopped

The best from our 2013 workshops

Feb: Hazel Howie feature artist

Artworks "On the Wild Side"

LADY FRANKLIN GALLERY

Open 11am - 5pm Saturdays & Sundays

268 Lenah Valley Rd www.artstas.com.au

VALLEY STREET BUSHCARE GROUP

Well, we have just finished all our working bees for the year. I would like to thank local residents, Malcolm Grant, Marj Wall, Jo Petrov and Marlene Chesney for all their support and hard work during the year along with the Hobart City Council Bush Crew who do a wonderful job throughout all our city reserves. The Valley St Bushcare Group will not meet again until February 23rd. We would love to see some more local residents giving us a helping hand to keep the Leonard Wall Reserve and Providence Valley looking cared for, safe for our bush birds and animals and a joy for you all to walk through! Come and join us in the New Year.

Vicki Martin – Convenor.



HOBART BAROQUE
28 March - 5 April 2014
Explore the full program at www.hobartbaroque.com.au
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

MOUNT STUART GROWERS NEWS

Mount Stuart Growers has had a fantastic year and continues to grow, not only in numbers, but also in our knowledge of gardening. We have been visiting neighbours' gardens; gardens further afield (such as the Tasmanian



Community Garden at the Royal Botanical Gardens) and continue to discuss issues that affect us, not only in our own gardens, but as a wider community.

With a number of Mount Stuart residents keeping chickens in their backyards, we will continue to monitor developments in regard to the legislation around giving away and selling eggs. It would be a shame if we can't share excess eggs with our neighbours!



Another issue we are discussing is that of bushfire preparedness and the shared responsibility of the community, Hobart City Council and the Tasmania Fire Service. At our next get-together, we will be discussing how our choice of planting impacts upon this. Apart from the issues that we already consider when planting such as environment, water usage and lifestyle, we will be looking at the flammability ratings of certain plants. An unfortunate side effect of many drought tolerant Australian native plants, is that they can also be highly flammable and, with many of us living in close proximity to some fantastic bushland, this is worthy of consideration. Other garden related topics we will be covering over the coming months include looking after plants over the holidays, what to plant next and keeping kids involved in the garden.



If you would like to join Mount Stuart Growers to contribute, learn a little more about gardening yourself or just get to know some other gardening enthusiasts with varying levels of knowledge, please visit our website www.mountstuartgrowers.com.au or call Tamsin on 0438 427 456.

Tamsin Singleton

THANKS

Thank you to all contributors to the newsletter and especially to all our deliverers, who clock up quite a few steps each edition. Also, a big thankyou to Rob Valentine MLC for sponsoring the printing of each newsletter.



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